



Tri-State Education Initiative Fact Sheet

Under the leadership of NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center, a national demonstration program the Tri-State Education Initiative (TSEI) was implemented in 1991. The TSEI is a cooperative effort between NASA and state, local and other federal agencies that represents NASA's model for national education reform.

The TSEI encompasses an area within a 50-mile (80-kilometer) radius of Iuka, Miss., which includes parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. The initiative advocates total community involvement in the education system and programs that are appropriate for people of all age groups.

The Tri-State Education Initiative Consortium is an association of 29 school districts, kindergarten through grade 12, organized to work cooperatively to enhance and broaden the capabilities of their respective education systems within the three-state area. Representation on the consortium and its nine-member executive board is provided by each of the area's 29 superintendents. The TSEI currently serves 232 schools, 5,600 teachers, 102,000 students and a population of 550,000 local residents.

More than 4,000 teachers have received approximately 300,000 pieces of educational material through the TSEI's NASA Teacher Resource Center, and more than 10,000 educators have participated in training activities at the Tri-State Learning Center. More than 2,000 pieces of equipment for the 29 school districts have been acquired for area schools. Both centers are located in Iuka, Miss.

NASA's TSEI facilitates training for new technology and economic development. The TSEI has provided Geographic Information System (GIS) seminars in the tri-state region to more than 1,500 participants. GIS is an electronic way to take an in-depth look at a specific area on Earth. Additional training was conducted for economic developers, community leaders, governmental officials and community colleges.

Another facet of the TSEI's mission is to provide information and training concerning the commercialization of space technology and federal procurement procedures. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., are coordinating these activities in the tri-state region.

Additional training opportunities have been provided through the use of interactive video. Examples include conferences on total quality learning for educators; telemedicine for health care providers; classroom instruction for students taught by instructors in Japan; and legal instruction through a dialogue

between barristers from London, England, and attorneys with the American Bar Association who are located within the TSEI region. Currently 20 other areas across the United States and in two foreign countries are actively working to replicate, or incorporate, all or part of the NASA/TSEI cooperative model or are considering the possibilities for incorporation.

The TSEI has been designated as:

1. The recipient of the Hammer Award from the Vice President's National Performance Review;
2. The recipient of a Certificate of Recognition from the U.S. Secretary of Education for systemic education reform;
3. The only GOALS 2000 region in the nation as designated by the U.S. secretary of education;
4. One of 27 sites in the nation to use "real time" weather receiving systems for curriculum/instruction;
5. One of seven sites in the nation selected by the U.S. Department of Education for staff development in science;
6. A one-of-a-kind program in the nation for education excellence in education reform, as selected by the SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education;
7. A national site for satellite imagery curriculum development for grades K-12.
8. A 1994 honorable mention in Community Solutions for Education, a national competition conducted by USA Today;
9. The only site nationwide to establish an endangered species tracking program;
10. The only site to use Loran-C Global Positioning Systems in schools by teachers and students to study interrelated disciplinary Earth science systems;
11. One of several systemic education initiatives selected as national models for reinventing education by the U.S. Department of Education.

For additional information about the Tri-State Education Initiative, contact NASA's TSEI program manager, Dr. David Powe, by writing to P.O. Box 508, Iuka, MS 38852-0508, or by calling (601) 423-7452. Information can also be accessed on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ssc.nasa.gov> (no quotes).

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